

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the Abstract and replace with the following Abstract:

A filtering face mask that comprises a mask body adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a person; and an exhalation valve that is attached to the mask body. The exhalation valve comprises a valve seat and a flexible flap. The valve seat has an orifice through which fluid can pass and is surrounded by the seal surface. The flexible flap is operatively supported relative to the valve seat and pressed against the seal surface of the valve seat in a closed state of the exhalation valve. The flexible flap assumes in its closed state, a curved profile in a cross-sectional view thereof. The curved profile comprises a curve that extends from a first point where a first portion of the flexible flap contacts the seal surface to a second point where a second portion of the flexible flap contacts the seal surface. The flexible flap is held in its closed state, at least in part, by virtue of the curved profile thereof. The second portion of the flexible flap represents the only free portion of the flap and can flex so as to permit exhaled air to pass through the orifice and to provide an open state of the fluid flow valve such that the second portion of the flexible flap is out of contact with the seal surface at the second point while the first portion of the flexible flap is maintained in contact with the seal surface at the first point.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the drawing sheet that contains Figs. 4-7 with the attached drawing sheet.